

A Migration of *Catopsilia florella* F. in Ethiopia

by

TORBEN B. LARSEN

On 17.VII.1981 when travelling from Harar to Dire Dawa in the Hararge Administrative Region of Ethiopia I observed a moderate migration of the well known migrant butterfly, *Catopsilia florella* F. They were moving due north; the wind was blowing towards the northwest with strong gusting. The migrants were in evidence for about 25 km on the Harar-Dire Dawa road on the plateau at about 2000 m. The plateau was very green in comparison with the dry mountain sides and Dire Dawa itself, although the rain season had started.

The migration was very thin with less than one specimen crossing a 100 metre front a minute, but it was quite obvious and the individual butterflies displayed all the usual characteristics of migrants. *C. florella* was unusually common at Dire Dawa, but there was no evidence of migration.

It is tempting to suggest that the butterflies were moving from the southern to the northern flanks of the Ahmar Mountains. The somewhat overlooked paper by JANNONE (1948) suggests this to be the case in Eritrea from east to west, and it probably also is the reason for movement in the Nilgiri Mountains of southern India (LARSEN, 1978) where the movements recur year after year. However, longer range displacement may have been involved.

Literatur

- JANNONE, G. (1948): Migrazione periodiche di Lepidotteri in Eritrea e loro riflessi sull'agricoltura. — Ann. Mus. civ. Stor. Nat. Giacomo Doria **63**: 142-167.
- LARSEN, T.B. (1978): Butterfly migrations in the Nilgiri Hills of South India.— J. Bomb. nat. Hist. Soc. **74**: 546-549.

Author's address:

TORBEN B. LARSEN
23 Jackson's Lane
London N. 6